

References

- BAKER, N.E. & BAKER, E.M. (in press). An ornithological survey of Mtera Dam.
- BRITTON, P.L. (ED) 1980. *Birds of East Africa*. Nairobi: EANH.S.
- PROCTER, J. 1968. The birds of the Usangu Plains. *Tanzania Notes & Records* 69: 1–14.
- ULFSTRAND, S. 1971. A dry season ecological survey of the mammal and bird faunas of Kidatu and Mtera proposed impoundment areas in Great Ruaha River, Tanzania, in SWECO/TANESCO, 1975, *Mtera Reservoir, ecology of a new man-made lake in Tanzania*.
- VESEY-FITZGERALD, D. & BEESLEY, J.S.S. 1960. An annotated list of the birds of the Rukwa Valley. *Tanganyika Notes & Records* 54: 91–110.
- WILLIAMS, J.G. 1981. *A field guide to the national parks of East Africa*. London: Collins.

N. E. Baker, Box 23404, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Scopus 18: 58–59

Received 14 June 1994

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* with a white eye-ring from the Kerio Valley, Kenya

On 8 December 1989 at the base of the Elgeyo Escarpment in the northern Kerio Valley (0°20'N, 35°40' E) I saw a Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* being much harassed by others of the same species. On closer examination, I saw that the bird had a white base to the bill and prominent white eye-rings on both sides of the head (type 1, Table 1). Apart from these obvious differences and a more skulking nature, the bird



Figure 1. *Common Bulbul Pycnonotus barbatus* of type 1 (Photo: N. Wilson)

was otherwise a typical *P. barbatus*. Although similar to the southwest Asian race *P. b. xanthopygos*, the eye-ring was markedly wider, being estimated at 2 mm wide. Two weeks later a presumed second bird was seen (type 2a). Although this was regularly seen during 1990, type 1 was not seen again until 1992, so it could not be certain whether two birds were involved.

Neither bird was recorded during 1991 but during 1992, however, a bird of type 1 appeared regularly and was photographed (Fig. 1). In March 1992, birds of types 1 and 2a were recorded, confirming that there were at least two bulbuls with white eye-rings.

Table 1. *Categories of Common Bulbuls with white-eye rings in the Kerio Valley*

Type	description	No. seen
1.	White at base of bill and heavy continuous 2-mm eye-ring on both sides	4
2.	White at base of bill and partial heavy eye-ring:	
	2a Complete left, discontinuous right	1
	2b Complete right, discontinuous left	1
	2c 'Half moon' behind both eyes	1
	2d Partial right, none left	2
	2e Partial left, none right	1
3.	White at base of bill and continuous feint white eye-ring on both sides	1
4.	White at base of bill only	3

All the birds were seen in mid-May 1993 apart from type 2c which was recorded on 1 June 1993. None have been noted from outside the area, being confined initially to about 50 ha at 1500 m. The birds dispersed at the onset of the rains, presumably to breed.

N. Wilson, River View, 34 East End, Wolsingham, Co Durham DL13 3JX, England

Scopus 18: 59–60, November 1994

Received 16 July 1993

Description of the nest and eggs of the Lead-coloured Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus* from the Kerio Valley, Kenya

Myioparus plumbeus is described as local and uncommon in woodland, wooded grassland, scattered thickets, moist bushland and forest edges up to 2000 m (Britton 1980). Brown & Britton's (1980) only record for the species is of nest building in April in their Region B.

On 19 April 1992 at Lake Kamnorok (0°39N, 35°37E) we saw a pair of *M. plumbeus* carrying fine grass to a west-facing hole in a dead tree about 5 m above the water. Because of flooding, we were unable to reach the tree to make further investigations. Then on 12 March 1993, in an exotic plantation area at 1450 m (0°20N, 35°40E) we saw a pair of the same species taking nesting material to a former Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica* nest hole in a telegraph pole 5½ m above the ground. We were able to watch this site and the birds began incubating on about 19 March leaving the west-facing hole unattended during the heat of each afternoon. We recorded the nest and egg details given below on 23 March.

The entrance hole was 6 cm in diameter with the nest rim 2.5 cm below. The cup-shaped nest itself was 6 cm in internal diameter and 2.5 cm deep, scantily made from fine interwoven grass and lined with dried bougainvillea flowers and small feathers. The two eggs were pale sea-green, heavily marked all over with dark olive-green streaks and spots, more concentrated at the larger end. They measured 17 x 12.5 mm.